

Remarks.—Two subspecies of raccoons enter northern Lower California. These are *Procyon lotor pallidus* Merriam, of the Colorado desert in the north-eastern part of the peninsula, and the animal described by Mearns as *Procyon lotor californicus* from the ocean beach near the last Mexican boundary monument, San Diego County, in the southwestern corner of California. The latter inhabits the comparatively humid northwest coast region of Lower California south to San Quentin. Some specimens from near the type locality of *californicus* suggest gradation toward *pallidus*, but general comparisons indicate that *californicus* can not satisfactorily be separated from *P. l. psora* Gray, from Sacramento, California.

Raccoons are dependent upon water for existence, and owing to exceedingly arid conditions in the central section of Lower California their general range is interrupted for considerable distances. The form here described, occupying the southern half of the peninsula differs rather markedly in combination of characters from both of the more northern subspecies. It requires no very close comparison with *P. l. mexicanus* of the adjacent mainland of Mexico, which in general, is paler, with the black postauricular spots obsolescent, and skull notably depressed in frontal region.

Specimens examined.—Eight, all from Lower California, as follows: La Paz (type locality), 2; Mount Miraflores, 1; San Ignacio, 5.

ZOOLOGY.—*A new murine opossum from Argentina.*¹ H. HAROLD SHAMEL, U. S. National Museum. (Communicated by JOHN B. REESIDE, JR.)

In 1920, Dr. A. Wetmore visited southern South America in the interests of the United States Biological Survey to make a study of the present status of northern migratory birds, particularly shore birds, which winter in the southern portion of the southern hemisphere. While engaged in this work he incidentally made a collection of 120 mammals, which is now in the U. S. National Museum. In this collection I have found a small opossum new to science.

Marmosa muscula sp. nov.

Type.—Adult male skin and skull, No. 236330 U. S. National Museum, collected by Dr. A. Wetmore in Formosa, Kilometro 182 (Central Formosa), Argentina, August 9, 1920.

Diagnosis.—A very small member of the genus, the smallest so far known, distinguished by its mouse-like coloration and its comparatively short tail.

Color.—This little animal is brownish in general tone of color. The hairs everywhere dark slate for the greater part of their length, this area followed by a subapical ring of colonial buff (Ridgway 1912). On the back the ends of the hairs are tipped with mars brown (Ridgway 1912), which gives to the

¹ Received January 28, 1930.

back a mixed buff and brown appearance, neither element strongly predominating. On the sides the buff is nearly clear and the dark tips are few and inconspicuous. Underparts clear colonial buff, the dark bases of the hairs showing through inconspicuously. There is a dark-brown eye ring, also a dark streak from the corner of the eye to the nose. Cheeks, sides of head, and shoulders are reddish brown, which changes into buff on the sides of the body. The tail is dark brown above, much paler below.

Skull.—In the skull the sides of the frontals are expanded, but unridged; in the interorbital region this swelling extends well down into the orbit; nasals pointed at juncture with the frontals, a portion of frontal coming down wedge fashion between them; the premolars are spaced closely together, all touching, the second (pm^2) being longer than the first or third.

Measurements.—*Type:* Total length, 123; tail, 55; foot, 11; ear (moistened) from crown, 9; total length of skull, 21.5; condylobasal length, 19.6; zygomatic width, 11.5; interorbital width, 3.5; length of nasals, 8.5; width of braincase, 8.5; maxillary tooth row (including incisor), 8.2; mandibular tooth row, 8.5; height of mandible, 6.5.

Remarks.—*Marmosa muscula* is next smaller than *M. bruchi* in general size, but the pale color and much longer tail (89.0 mm) of the latter will readily separate them. It is very mouse-like in appearance and even smaller than some specimens of *Mus muscula* in this collection from Buenos Aires, thus representing one of the smallest marsupials known. This specimen was examined by Oldfield Thomas of the British Museum of Natural History who said, "The *Marmosa* is a very distinct little species, quite unlike anything I have seen * * * *M. bruchi* has a white belly and the body marking of the *M. marmota* group."

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMY AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

THE BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

737TH MEETING

The 737th meeting was held at the Cosmos Club October 19, 1929, with President WETMORE in the chair and 55 persons present.

The President announced the membership of the standing committees of the Society as follows: *Committee on Communications:* W. B. BELL, Chairman, V. BAILEY, W. H. WHITE, LEWIS RADCLIFFE, W. R. MAXON, W. L. SCHMITT; *Committee on Zoological Nomenclature:* G. S. MILLER, Jr., Chairman, A. C. BAKER, PAUL BARTSCH, E. A. CHAPIN, H. C. OBERHOLSER; *Committee on Publications:* CHAS. W. RICHMOND, Chairman, J. H. RILEY, F. C. LINCOLN, W. H. WHITE.

A. WETMORE announced that the Pinchot expedition to the South Seas, although its collections have been received only in part as yet, has already sent a dozen forms of birds new to the National Museum.

Program: J. M. ALDRICH: *Notes on the life zones of northern Europe* (illustrated).—The speaker collected flies at Aare, Sweden, last July, and while there ascended the mountain called Aareskutan, just back of the hamlet. The railroad station beside the river has an altitude of about 1500 feet, while the summit of the mountain reaches about 5000 feet. The first 500